

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 TAIPEI 003584

SIPDIS

STATE PASS AIT/W

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/12/2014

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [TW](#)

SUBJECT: PFP ADVISOR BREAKS RANK, JOINS DPP CROSS-STRAIT COMMITTEE

REF: TAIPEI 02074

Classified By: AIT Acting Director David Keegan, Reasons: 1.4 (B/D)

11. (C) Summary: Former PFP International Affairs Director Raymond Wu told AIT that he intends to join President Chen Shui-bian's inter-party Cross-Straits Peace and Stability Committee after it is set up in early 2005. Wu said he would join the committee even if his political mentor James Soong objected because he believes Soong and current Pan-Blue leaders have lost sight of the true aspirations of the Taiwan people. Wu said that he attempted to introduce innovative ideas on cross-Straits policies to the Pan-Blue leadership but was ignored. The Pan-Blue has said that it will boycott the committee. However, should the DPP succeed in attracting other prominent Pan-Blue experts to participate, the Pan-Blue might find itself left out of cross-Straits policy debates. End Summary.

DPP courts Wu again

12. (C) Former People First Party (PFP) International Affairs Director Raymond Wu told AIT that National Security Council (NSC) Secretary General Chiou I-jen had asked him to participate in the inter-party Cross-Straits Peace and Stability Committee that Chen Shui-bian said he intends to set up in early 2005. Wu said that he and Chiou had met to talk about the Committee twice since August, when Wu turned down an offer to be the Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) vice chairman (Reftel). Wu said that his decision to join the Committee would be contingent on whether or not the Chen administration showed it was serious about reducing cross-Straits tensions and resuming dialogue with the PRC. Wu said he intends to ask the question directly to Chiou the next time they met.

Pan-Blue out of touch with Taiwan

13. (C) Wu asserted that he would join the committee even if his political patron James Soong objected. Wu admitted to AIT that he had rejected MAC's offer to be vice chairman solely because of Soong's flat disapproval. However, after a period of soul searching, Wu explained, he had despaired over how out of touch with "Taiwan reality" Soong and current Pan-Blue leaders truly were. Wu said that he traveled extensively throughout Taiwan with Soong during the 2000 election, and heard what Taiwan people in the cities, countryside, towns, and villages had to say. Wu said that it was infinitely clear that Taiwan identity is on the rise and if it were not for their fear of PRC attack, the people would choose independence.

14. (C) Wu said he is baffled by Soong's recent declaration that there should be no trace of independence sentiment in the Pan-Blue. Wu asserted that Soong heard the same voices on Taiwan identity and independence that he did, and at the time appeared more open to innovative ideas on cross-Straits relations. Wu claimed that Soong gave him license to think creatively, and as a result, Wu wrote a policy paper that included the formulation "Taiwan is the Republic of China, the Republic of China is Taiwan" (Taiwan jiu shi Zhonghua Mingguo, Zhonghua Mingguo jiu shi Taiwan).

15. (C) Wu said that he gave Soong and KMT Secretary General Lin Fong-cheng the policy paper during the 2004 presidential election but they took no action on it. After the election, Wu presented his ideas to KMT Vice Chairman Vincent Siew, and Siew promised to propose them at a KMT Central Standing Committee (CSC) meeting. Wu said in frustration, the formulation was watered down to "some meaningless phrase about the ROC being the best defense for Taiwan." Wu said he feared that the Pan-Blue had no one working on cross-Straits policy at the moment, pointing out that former MAC Chairman Su Chi was no longer at the National Policy Foundation. Wu asked rhetorically, "And who is left around James Soong? PFP Policy Chief Chang Hsien-yao? He stopped thinking when he started his LY campaign"

In Soong's defense

17. (C) While many of Soong's once close advisors have

abandoned the increasing erratic PFP Chairman, PFP Legislator and Spokesman Daniel Hwang (Yih-jiau) defended the reasoning behind Soong's tack to the pro-unification extreme. Hwang told AIT that Soong was convinced that there was no room in the Pan-Blue for Taiwan independence sentiments. Hwang explained that the Pan-Blue must rid itself of Lee Teng-hui elements because "any hint of independence thinking would cause tensions with the PRC." Hwang continued, "we do not buy ROC equals Taiwan, the ROC is still the union of the whole of China." When asked about the Pan-Blue's presidential campaign promise that independence was an option for the future, Hwang replied that "Wang Jin-pyng said it; James Soong did not." Hwang admitted that Soong did say the debate should be postponed, but explained that "postponing the debate does not mean that we are going to pursue independence." He added that the PFP still stood for eventual reunification, but wanted China to catch up politically and economically. Hwang stated that the PFP approach has been: "we will concentrate on the economy and act like an ostrich on political issues."

Comment: Is Pan-Blue losing out?

18. (C) It will be interesting to see whether any other prominent Pan-Blue figures will break rank with the leadership and join the DPP's cross-Strait committee. LY President and KMT Vice Chairman Wang Jin-pyng told AIT Acting Director November 9 that the Pan-Blue will boycott the committee as a DPP public relations ploy. However, that characterization would be difficult to sustain should the DPP succeed in convincing other serious Pan-Blue cross-Strait policy experts to participate.

PAAL